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A Souvenir

OF THE
ANNIVERSARY AND BANQUET

OF THE
OLDEST INHABITANTS
ASSOCIATION
(COLORED)

OF THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

JOHN H. PAYNTER, Historian

APRIL 16, 1914



WASHINGTON, D. C.

1914





JEROME A. JOHNSON
President and Founder

Gist

P. Lee Phillips

Apr. 22 18

Foreword

During many years, since the principle of liberty for all men became the mighty shibboleth in the rebirth of the Union, the serious thought of many old residents of color in the District has been given to the establishment of an Oldest Inhabitants Association.

It was thought that such an Association, molded upon lines similar, in the main, to those upon which one was formed among white fellow-citizens, could do much toward encouraging a pride of race, as well as of residence, among a people whose long years of sad experiences could not of themselves be expected to stimulate the growth of these ennobling sentiments.

The essential work of establishing a presumable equality of being and opportunity having been completed, the Negro made his entrance into civic life as a new creature, rejoicing as some proud victor "at dangers past and conflicts won," with tales as true and strange and thrilling as ever yet, with merry rhythm or solemn period, were fashioned into an epic for a race; and so the thoughts and hopes of many citizens were crystallized by the fact of organization, mainly through the efforts of Mr. Jerome A. Johnson, when in November, 1912, was formed the Association of Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia (Colored).

It seemed appropriate and natural that the sixteenth of April should be considered the most important in the calendar of the Association, and so was adopted as its natal day, to be appropriately observed on each recurring anniversary.

Historian's Address

MR. PRESIDENT, HONORED GUESTS, AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERS OF
THE OLDEST INHABITANTS ASSOCIATION (COLORED) OF THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA:

Entering as we do to-night upon our second anniversary year, we realize that there is much encompassed within the twelve months that may be remembered with pleasure. Equally true it is that there is much that has touched us either intimately or remotely that is not at all pleasant and which would have been ordered otherwise had our personal wishes been consulted.

Meetings have been held regularly each month, to the pleasure and gratification of an ever increasing membership, who more and more are coming to look forward to these monthly reunions as significant and of the first importance.

It should be gratifying to each of us to realize how bright with promise the future beams that holds our plans and hopes and dreams, and so these meetings, each adds one more golden link to the precious chain of memories which shall become more and still more valuable as the years roll on.

It must continue to be a source of satisfaction and an occasion of general congratulation that a body of citizens, who have nothing to distinguish them except their plainness and long residence, have agreed to come together and are emphasizing through permanent organization the fact that they have a pride in their place of residence and are not ashamed to be associated under the name of its oldest inhabitants. Certainly there can not be a spot in all this broad land so redolent of events which have furnished in so large a degree the highest lights and deepest shadows of our most valuable American history.

To have been associated with any of these in however small

a degree is indeed to have been distinguished, and yet before this city took on its permanent outline as directed through the genius of the French Major L'Enfant and the black mathematician Benjamin Banneker, Negro citizens were already bearing an intimate and worthful relation to the life and progress of this community and the millions of that greater America which were to come after them.

I have often thought that we as a race are not sufficiently appreciative of the powerful asset it has in the life history of the immortal Banneker. The fact should be made notorious that the history of the laying out of this beautiful Capital City is the completest justification of the claim of Negro citizens to an equitable and righteous consideration in all matters which touch their civic welfare.

Certainly there can be no warrant for the shafts of abuse which are persistently hurled at them; the rigid lines of discrimination drawn against them and the contemptible assaults which are made upon their fame and character by persons who are alien to the soil and who through the fortunes of politics are permitted a temporary residence to represent their distant constituencies at the seat of government.

Many of these, perhaps, do not know that it is to the splendid genius of this black man that in large measure they are indebted for the scientific measurements from which has been developed our glorious Washington; and to complete a tripod of the names of men who wrought its magnificent design, to those of L'Enfant and Ellicott must be added that of the Negro Astronomer and Surveyor, Benjamin Banneker.

Banneker's grandfather is said to have been an African Prince, who was stolen from his native land and sold to an English woman who owned a small farm near the Patapsco River.

This woman, Molly Welsh by name, was undergoing punishment in the shape of an enforced residence in the colonies, for an alleged misdemeanor, said to have been nothing more serious than the loss of a pail of milk, which, indeed it is also said, the cow, herself had kicked over.

Be that as it may, it was by a devious route and through

a strange combination of circumstances that one of the most remarkable men the world has known was to make his appearance.

England and Africa with their wealth of history and tradition seem solemnly to have pledged each the other its hand and heart and peculiar talents that beyond the great waters a new world might first behold their great achievement.

Molly Welsh had herself been held in nominal slavery as expiation for her alleged misdeed; but after her time of service had expired, established herself on a small farm, in the operation of which she was assisted by two Negro men whom she had purchased. One of these was Banneker's grandfather.

After a few years she set them both free and later married Banneker. One of the children of this union was Mary, who married, but retained her family name and became the mother of Banneker, the mathematician and astronomer.

It is to be noted that such marriages were quite common in Maryland during the early Colonial days, between white serving women and Negro slaves, and to this legitimate origin may largely be traced many of the old families of this commonwealth whose mixed blood has long been seized upon as occasion for uncharitable reflection.

The desire of his grandmother, who was a woman of superior intelligence, to have young Banneker read to her from the Bible is mainly responsible for his initiation into the mysteries of letters. She taught him herself and afterwards placed him in a school where much the larger number of pupils were of the white race.

Banneker's genius early discovered itself. He studiously applied himself during several years to the study of the sundial and watch and after experiencing many difficulties in perfecting adjustments and modeling the works, he finally at the age of twenty-two, gave to the colony its first native clock.

This piece of mechanism, so ingeniously constructed and having its works carved with a knife out of hard wood (a substance but indifferently adapted for uses requiring delicate and minute adjustments), is said to have struck the hours; was an excellent time-piece, and as late as 1773 after

having run more than twenty years, was reported in good condition and as affording, with its sable designer, an attraction for visitors from afar and near.

The Ellicott family settled in the neighborhood when Banneker had just passed his fortieth year and where was established the industry which gave name and fame to that locality.

To many minds, perhaps the fact that it was our Banneker's birthplace would seemingly account, more aesthetically, at least, for its extended fame.

George Ellicott and Banneker immediately established a friendship that was to be broken only by death.

A reciprocal interest in the science of mathematics doubtless pointed the way for so unusual an attachment, for Ellicott was a man well versed in this science. In early youth he had surveyed the road from Frederick to Baltimore and was in possession of a number of rare mathematical books and instruments which he freely loaned to Banneker.

It was at Ellicott's suggestion that the latter undertook the calculations necessary for the compiling of almanacs.

To this work he devoted all his energies and was so successful as to calculate an eclipse in 1789.

His first almanac was published in 1792, when in his sixty-first year and was stated by the publishers to be "a complete and accurate Ephemeris for Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia and altogether a most extraordinary effort of genius."

A manuscript copy of this Almanac was forwarded to Thomas Jefferson at Philadelphia. Mr. Jefferson, who was then Secretary of State, responded with a most felicitous note of congratulations in which this significant phrase occurred: "Nobody wishes more than I do, to see proofs, as you exhibit, that nature has given to our black brethren talents equal to the other colors of men."

He also stated that he had sent the Almanac to Mons. Condorcet, Secretary of the Academy of Sciences at Paris and member of the Philanthropic Society, because "he considered it as a document to which your whole color had a right for

their justification against the doubts which have been entertained of them."

Perhaps in no more specific or pointed way is the thoroughly unique and altogether wonderful career of Benjamin Banneker emphasized than in his preparedness to furnish the necessary scientific data for a completion of the survey of the City of Washington, when Major L'Enfant, through excess of pique actually abandoned the work.

Washington and Jefferson had frequently been annoyed by his unreasonable demands in connection therewith and were finally face to face with the fact that the Major had actually shaken the dust of the embryo Capital City from his feet and what was worse had taken with him all his original plans and measurements.

The situation indeed seemed desperate and was so regarded by Washington (for there was involved the defeat of his most cherished plans for a Federal City) until apprised of the fact that Banneker for purposes of practice and calculation had regularly transcribed and preserved the field notes of L'Enfant.

These furnished Ellicott, L'Enfant's assistant, the essential data, and the work of laying down the Capital City was completed upon its original lines.

The beauty of design and excellent proportions of Detroit, the superb city by the Great Lakes, so similar in these respects to the City of Washington, are not at all strange when it is known that the disgruntled Major L'Enfant, seemingly to emphasize his complete disgust and resentment, betook himself to Michigan and sold his plans and measurements to Governor Woodward for use in laying out his capital city. Woodward Avenue at Detroit corresponds to Pennsylvania Avenue at Washington.

In speaking of this wonderful man, Mrs. Mary Clemmer Ames, in her interesting book entitled "Life and Scenes in the National Capital," uses this language: "Ellicott's most remarkable assistant was Benjamin Banneker, a Negro. He was, I believe, the first of his race to distinguish himself in the new Republic. He was born with a genius for mathematics

and the exact sciences and at an early age was the author of an Almanac which attracted the attention of Thomas Jefferson. When he came to run the lines of the future Capital he was sixty years of age. The caste of color could not have grown to its height at that day, for the Commissioners invited him to an official seat with themselves, an honor which he declined. The picture given us of him is that of a sable Franklin, large, noble, and venerable, with a dusky face, white hair, a drab coat of superfine broadcloth, and a Quaker hat. He was born and buried at Ellicott Mills where his grave is now unmarked." This reference concludes with these significant words on which individuals and organizations may well ponder. She says: "Here is a chance for the rising race to erect a monument to one of their own sons, who in the face of ignorance and bondage proved himself every inch a man; in intellectual gifts equal to the best."

This reminds us that there are possibly now preserved through family records many valuable personal recollections of this earlier day, and should they be brought to light through the activities of this association, which will guarantee to keep alive and transmit them unimpaired, an important work will have been accomplished in the interest of American Negro history.

It is a rather sad commentary upon Negro enterprise and pride of race, that the compended data of the North American Indian is more comprehensive than that of the American Negro, notwithstanding his wealth, his intelligence and his numerical superiority.

It is distressing to think of the numerous historical credits which have been lost to the Negro through the failure to preserve honorable incidents and traditions of his steadfast devotion and faithful service.

It is the duty of the present generation, as it should be esteemed their proud privilege, to bend every effort and neglect no opportunity to gather the scattered fragments of Negro

Acknowledgments are cordially rendered Mr. Daniel Murray, of the Congressional Library, for much interesting information touching the life of Banneker.

racial history wherever found and through some authorized channel insure its preservation as an essential link in the golden chain of his national progress.

It matters not that this story up to a certain point must be one of involuntary service, frequent inhuman treatment, and the most extraordinary personal and family sacrifice. This must necessarily have been so or else the after history of a most wonderful progress could not have been written.

From the degraded position of a human chattel has been evolved a man and citizen, theoretically at least, clothed with the rights and privileges pertaining thereto and cognizant of the manifold limitations which separate him from their rightful exercise.

With an unfaltering trust in that gracious Omnipotence whose care and protection brought the light of freedom from out the midnight of oppression, he looks ahead with confidence "That what the future yields will be the right, unless he himself is wrong."

It is then, gentlemen, on this sixteenth day of April, a date so pregnant of good for the race and the glad epoch of his manhood's birth, that I greet you with pride and joy and venture to urge that you stimulate in every possible way the interest that is here manifested by your presence, to the end that this our natal day may continue each year to have its honored and appropriate recognition and that the traditions of an extraordinary racial history may not be lost to Americans and especially to Negro Americans who shall come after us.

It has been cause for regret that recognition in this District in a civic way has not been maintained in any reasonable proportion to the increasing numbers of its Negro citizens. The positions now and for a long time accorded, are in no sense an adequate recognition of either their numbers, intelligence, or wealth.

There was a time when a Negro Treasurer in the person of Hon. John T. Johnson, the father of our president and founder, was responsible for the collected revenues of this District, and a Negro Collector of Taxes in the person of the Hon.

John F. Cook receipted for the hundreds of thousands of dollars paid to the District Government, while the minor employees, such as clerks, messengers, and laborers were numerous in every city branch. A goodly representation was then also accorded in the police and fire departments and all branches of the District courts.

What a contrast we find now, notwithstanding a commendable advance along lines of good citizenship, when but scant recognition is accorded in any department of the local government and when to see a Negro policeman or fireman is so rare an occurrence that one is almost impelled to pinch him to see if he is real flesh and blood.

We feel, however, that a new order of things has been instituted and that the present Board of Commissioners will make it their duty to look more carefully after the interests of Negro citizens. The Association of Oldest Inhabitants (Colored) therefore extends to the Commissioners of the District their sincere compliments and desires to thank them for the appointment of two of our worthy citizens to be members of the detective branch of the guardians of the District, and we venture to express the hope, nay the belief, that numbers of other good things may be held in trust at the District Building in recognition of that one-third population which is Negro and which in many instances, through its forbears, claims a residence almost as old as the government itself. Certainly a larger recognition by civic appointment might be abundantly justified on any possible theory of home rule, although there are those in responsible place, who, until recently might have had difficulty in even locating Washington on the map, who strenuously advocate the severest restrictions of the privileges of Negro citizens in the Capital City.

Negro Americans are justly proud of the fifty years of freedom which have been rounded out since the last, which was also the first anniversary celebration of our Oldest Inhabitants Association, and while there are doubtless as great a variety of opinions on the subject of our progress as there are angles of observation, yet could a balance be struck, the fact of a substantial and persistent advance in all ways that

make for broad and enlightened citizenship would be readily established. This, too, notwithstanding the formidable checks that have been organized and developed during the year.

The fact that a government committed by its own traditional experience and history to substantial freedom and equity; the largest liberty and equality of civic duty and privilege for all its citizens, should depart from its faith and constitutional pledges to indulge in the extraordinary practices of discrimination and segregation on account of race, might well spread confusion and inspire distrust.

It is, however, the strong fires of persecution which draw out, emphasize and develop the worthful traits of racial character, and just as the burning wrongs and brutal injustices of slavery led three million black Americans to lay their burden at the foot of the Cross and with constant prayer besiege Jehovah's throne, just so did this "new slavery," with its frightful possibilities, recreate a race, now grown ten millions strong.

It has taken fifty years to realize that there can be no substantial success or progress without union, and for the first time since Emancipation this realization has been translated into terms of prompt, effective and united action. The Negro race is stronger to-day because of segregation.

It is said that misfortunes are frequently blessings in disguise, and so indeed the years that are to come may regard this abominable and un-American practice of segregation as one of the blessings of the Wilson Administration that future generations of prosperous and respected Negro citizens will complacently refer to as "Just a little Wilson, that's all."

In this connection a sense of pride may surely be indulged by every agency, personal or otherwise, that contributed in any way to the discouragement of this shameless assault upon a loyal and deserving class of employees.

Among these agencies, this Association came early to the front and with action that was spontaneous and unanimous responded by a contribution of \$25.00 to be sent by the local committee of fifty or more to the National Association for the

Advancement of Colored People to help in its splendid fight against segregation.

Too much praise can not be bestowed upon the noble men and women of the white race whose fearless championship serves notice on the apostles of reaction and prejudice that there are those to-day in place and power who exalt right and justice above might and expediency and who are as unreservedly committed to a square deal for the Negro as were those brave and loyal souls of fifty years ago.

The National Independent Political League, under the leadership of William Monroe Trotter, which presented a petition of 10,000 names to the President asking that segregation be abolished, should not be overlooked and deserves, indeed, large credit for the measure of success attending the general effort. Segregation still lives, however, and with sullen growl and gnashing teeth, thrusts itself across the path of Negro pilgrims, who are pressing forward with determined faith toward the city of Equal Rights.

We pause to pay a tribute of loving regard to those who, since the formation of this Association have passed out and beyond our human contact and are now citizens of that misty and intangible land of "Nevermore." Many, too, have previously gone whose proud delight it would have been to be numbered with us had they been permitted to linger yet awhile. Countless numbers of such have been called to the other side, who have very largely increased the measure of esteem in which the Negro people of this District are held.

To this glorious host we offer the loving and grateful tribute of sincere affection and pledge to their memory our most tender regard, looking forward to a happy reunion, when, as theirs, our life's work, too, shall have been completed.

Among these Mr. Sydney Herbert, Mr. J. F. N. Wilkinson, Mr. Thomas H. Wright and Mr. Wallace Grant had signified their intention to be numbered with us. Each of these had

rounded out an honorable career which had its inception in the humblest station to which man can be born.

That they advanced from stage to stage, through situations of personal humiliation and distress, with loyal and honorable service through the dangers and privations of civil discord and bore a worthy though humble part in the rebirth and progress of reunited America, is the proud heritage of their loved ones and should remain a cherished memory with all Negro citizens.

The toll of deaths of members during the year includes that of Mr. James H. Cruso and Mr. Archie Lewis.

Each of these had spent many years in the service of the government, the former in various positions, both at home and abroad, on land and on sea; but whether in departmental service at Washington or aboard ship in foreign port or distant seas, he was ever a patriotic American and loyal friend.

The service of Mr. Archie Lewis covered a period of more than fifty years, and in an association, than which, none is more lofty and whose influences are more potential and far-reaching. To the exacting demands of such an exalted environment as the Supreme Court of the United States, Mr. Lewis responded patiently, unfalteringly and successfully.

The record of his service of a life-time illumines the archives of this august tribunal, and at his bier, within the shadow of the humble, darkened home, there stood in sympathetic bereavement a majority group of the distinguished jurists who compose the highest judicial body in the land.

This remarkable tribute was subsequently read into the record of the proceedings of the House of Representatives; and thus the life and character and extended public service of this pure minded Negro gentleman and upright citizen have been incorporated among the bright historic facts of our country and the memory of his long and faithful service and conspicuous integrity must ever inspire our youth to emulation and stimulate the active interest of powerful friends in the well-being of Negro citizens.

(1) Among the other matters of uplift and interest engaging the thought of the Association during the year are the proposition for incorporation, which is not yet accomplished.

(2) The serious consideration of a movement looking to the acquisition by purchase of a building to be used as the home of the Association.

(3) The discouraging indifference with which in many instances the claims of qualified and eligible graduates of our public schools are set aside in the interest of candidates from abroad and the palpably unfair action of the authorities in appointing married women, while worthy and competent graduates who are single, are without employment. The fact that teachers on the regular force are employed in the night schools while numbers of graduates are left without employment was also seriously deplored.

(4) The eighth of August, 1913, will ever be remembered as the date of the first annual picnic of the Association as well as what was conceded to be by the hundreds who participated, one of the most enjoyable affairs within the memory of the oldest resident.

Compliments of the Association are due the Industrial Savings Bank, Mr. John W. Lewis, President, on its acquisition of the True Reformers' Building in this city; and while we regret the looseness of management that made its sale necessary we are proud that another institution belonging to the race has been enabled through thrift, industry and wise business methods to attain such financial strength as to make its purchase possible.

The most notable international event of the year, by far, was the election of the Hon. John R. Archer to the Mayoralty of the Metropolitan Borough of Battersea, London, England, an interesting notice of which was brought to the Association at its meeting in January by our esteemed associate Mr. John W. Cromwell. For this courtesy His Excellency, the Mayor, extends Mr. Cromwell his sincere thanks.

In response to our communication bearing felicitations on

the splendid honor that through him was reflected upon the whole Negro Race, the Mayor wrote with much feeling and unmistakable appreciation of the affectionate consideration in which he is regarded by those of his race in America and was particularly anxious to be informed concerning the Oldest Inhabitants Association. The Mayor was also good enough to forward photographs of himself in his Mayoralty robes and Chain of Office and in Court dress as presented to King George the Fifth.

It is said that the Negro is habitually happy and optimistic and that it is natural for him to look on the bright side of things. This is probably true for it is surely in keeping with the beneficent nature of the Creator to endow him thus liberally, as He has known from the beginning the serious trials which were to beset his pathway and the cruel persecutions which were to environ and to thwart his progress.

Such is the fate of humanity that for weal and for woe we are linked to a destiny which at varying intervals carries us to the attractive pasture lands of personal happiness and again plunges us seemingly without hope into the abysmal depths of despondency.

Thus, although it is a primary object of the Oldest Inhabitants Association (Colored) to live in and exploit the past and to build up an organization of good-natured fossilized has-beens, they at the same time encourage a disposition to enjoy the good things of the present and contribute in every way possible toward a racial foundation of integrity and character, upon which our boys and girls, who are to be the future citizens, may erect a temple of achievements which will be as high and as broad as wealth and intelligence may make it.

An admonition of prudence has prevented the Association from evincing its deep interest in the long held-up nomination of its most distinguished member, the Hon. Robert H.

Terrell, to be a Justice of the Municipal Court of the District of Columbia.

However, since his confirmation has been realized, it does feel that had he been defeated, there would have nevertheless remained to us unimpaired, his sterling worth, his loyal friendship and splendid judicial record.

These! These may be fondly cherished; but what would narrow bigotry and unreasoning prejudice have gained, more than the scornful pity of the brave and just.

Turning to another feature of this anniversary occasion it is sorrowfully realized that a considerable contingent of the Negro people of this District have no sympathy with any kind of formal exercise having as its object the recognition of April 16 and the act of Mr. Lincoln that marked an epoch for the American nation no less than for the American Negro.

The greatest desire of such weaklings is to forget that their parents bore with the fortitude of martyrs the cruel hardships of the condition into which the Master had called them and through which they have earned for themselves a far more increasing and eternal weight of glory.

In furtherance of this desire they seek to repudiate any kind of connection through which their original station or ancestry might be suspected.

Poor, misguided creatures; how pitiable and how disgusting to witness the dethronement of all manly and womanly principle, through the reaching after a fictitious ideal and their affected scornful regard of Negro effort and character and the ridiculous gymnastics which their Anglo-Saxon predilections seem to render necessary.

This reference, be it known, is made in all kindness but with genuine sorrow and regret; sorrow for a weakness that invites only contempt from other races and regret that through this weakness on the part of some, the constant fight of noble

men and women against the insufferable egotism and prejudice of race is rendered all the harder for the many.

Quite naturally it may be supposed the members of the Oldest Inhabitants Association (Colored) are an entirely different kind of people.

They are not disposed to apologize for either their color or previous condition and are not afflicted with an unnatural desire to change their natural pigment or exchange their social status.

To them the former condition of slavery is a fact of history that minimizes in no degree the appreciation of their present obligations, duties and privileges, as citizens of the great American Republic and residents of its capital city.

For present purposes it is not necessary to institute a psychological analysis of the forces which urged the Proclamation of Emancipation.

The Act for whatever purpose accomplished, must take its place as the most stupendous, far-reaching and beneficent within the scope of human experience in this or any other age.

For the same reasons the name of Lincoln the Emancipator, Lincoln the Martyr, must gain new lustre as the ages roll and his memory, as long as love and hope enrich our human lives, will be accorded the affectionate reverence of a grateful people.

Address

BY DR. W. S. MONTGOMERY.

[Delivered at Annual Meeting of the Oldest Inhabitants Association (Colored), of Washington, D. C., April 16, 1914.]

MR. PRESIDENT, AND GENTLEMEN OF THE OLDEST INHABITANTS ASSOCIATION:

My first duty is to return thanks for the honor conferred upon me in the privilege of meeting with you. It has been humorously said that when the Pilgrims landed "Upon the wild New England shore"—

"They first fell upon their knees,
And then upon the aborigines."

To-night it is my rare good fortune to fall in with the "aborigines," the men who through long years of inhabitancy have by prescription won the right to initiation in your Association. Long life to your organization, and long life to you who now compose it!

The member who so kindly invited me to meet and mingle with you upon this occasion is a comrade in the arduous excellence of things done rather than in the easy excellence of things said.

In the whirl and swirl—the razzle dazzle of life—it is difficult to say whether we are the "Last Roses of Summer" or the "Roses of Last Summer." My friend's connection here leads me to suspect that he has a lurking suspicion of being the "Rose of Last Summer." I, however, am still too young to seek enrollment in this body of ancient and honorable men. As the children of Israel had to wander forty years in the wilderness to purge and fit them for entrance into Canaan, so they who seek membership in the Association of the Oldest Inhabitants, must have for forty years wandered to and fro in the wilderness of the world ere they "alarm the door."

Your object is a noble and worthy one, to rescue from the darkness of oblivion local traditions, to keep unbroken the

chords of friendship and fellowship stretching from many hearth stones, to touch elbows, and clasp hands, and to cheer and hearten life's comrades. A community, knit and sinewed together by such a society, is exalted in the eyes of all, and accomplishes a higher mission. Each realizes his larger or community self, and thus is his individual self plus his greater social self.

When occasions arise to speak on educational, economic, moral or spiritual questions, the voice of the Association carries farther, and gains more ready audience. In a multitude of counselors there is wisdom. Ill-considered propositions, half-baked views, are not apt to emanate from a body so rich in years and experience.

Traditions intensely interesting and important are kept alive, vitalized by men who can with Aeneas say "*Pars magna fui.*" Commingled with you are sons who hear your words and behold your faces, and your lineaments will endure long after you have answered the summons to the narrow house and long sleep. In the presence of so great a cloud of witnesses the sons will live in emulation of noble sires.

It is well for men like you to keep alive the sacred, unwritten chronicles of the city. Many of you saw the carnage of a war which gave you and me liberty in place of unhalloved slavery which cast its dark cloud over this community; you have witnessed the marvelous progress in learning, in prosperity. These gatherings should vividly bring before the sons—the younger generation—the toil and self-denial of the fathers, that they may know the price paid for their station in life to-day.

One by one the older members drop out of life's marching ranks to answer roll call nevermore; but fresh accessions make the Association perpetual. Let its reminiscences of the past illuminate the present and future of young men, "the heirs of all the ages, in the foremost files of time."

I again thank you for the honor you have bestowed on me, and I assure you that while I live I shall never cease to take a deep interest in the welfare of the body with which by your kindness I have this evening become acquainted.

Officers of the Association

JEROME A. JOHNSON, *President*

DAVID L. BRUCE, *First Vice President*

EUGENE BROOKS, *Second Vice President*

LEMUEL C. BAILEY, *Third Vice President*

LLOYD BROWN, *Fourth Vice President*

R. H. HAWKINS, *Fifth Vice President*

JOHN I. JACKSON, *Treasurer*

IRA F. T. WRIGHT, *Financial Secretary*

JAS. W. MUSE, *Rec. Secretary*

WM. T. SMITH, *Asst. Fin. Sec.*

WM. A. PRATER, *Steward*

Eligible Committee:

A. LINCOLN BROWN

H. D. WILLIAMS

DAVID L. BRUCE

J. C. BRUCE

CHARLES W. MASON

MB 103.

~~PD 104~~

Roster

Aden, Jas. W.	Gray, S. J.	Pierce, Chas.
Atkinson, Chester	Green, C. H.	Pinn, G. I.
Atkinson, Chas. S.	Green, J. W.	Posey, J. H.
Bailey, L. C.	Green, R. P.	Prater, J. H.
Barker, Jas. C.	Grimshaw, W. H.	Prater, W. A.
Bell, W. H.	Hall, Francis	Riley, P. P.
Beckley, W. W.	Harris, R. T.	Richardson, William
Beverly, Robt.	Harrison, R. H.	Ross, H. L.
Blake, W. F.	Hawkins, William	Russel, Aaron
Bowie, Randell	Hawkins, R. H.	Savoy, Edward A.
Boston, A. F.	Hearns, F. E.	Savoy, Alex. E.
Bowman, Lincoln	Herbert, J. R.	Savoy, J. A.
Brent, A. P.	Hill, W. H.	Sewall, Dr. G. T.
Brent, Wm. H.	Hickman, J. L.	Shaw, R. A., Sr.
Brooks, Jno. H.	Jackson, Elton	Shaw, R. A., Jr.
Brooks, Chas. E.	Jackson, H. W.	Short, T. W.
Brooks, Geo. L.	Jackson, J. I.	Shorter, J. A.
Brooks, Eli	Jarvis, Henry	Silence, W. A.
Brooks, Eugene	Janifer, E. F.	Smith, R. E.
Brooks, Saulsbury	Jackson, Lewis	Smith, S. Neal
Brown, L. A.	Jones, S. L.	Smith, W. J.
Brown, Lloyd	Jackson, T. H.	Smith, W. T.
Brown, W. H.	Johnson, W. H.	Snowden, Noble N.
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